

thought about the children of District 47. He returned to work earlier than he probably should have to be sure that our schools ran smoothly and safely.

For these reasons, I hope that you will honor Mr. Bernotos by naming him Grand Marshall of the Crystal Lake Gala's Parade. He has helped every single person in this community by working for the children of the community.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

FRANKLIN MCANALLY,
Lundahl Middle School.

DR. EUGENE STANISLAUS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the achievements of Dr. Eugene Stanislaus. Dr. Stanislaus was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. He received his B.A. in Biology from New York University in 1980. He received his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the State University of Stony Brook, School of Dental Medicine in 1984. After dental school he completed a one year general practice dental residency program at The Long Island College Hospital, Department of Dentistry.

Upon completion of his residency, he joined the practice of his father Dr. Lamuel Stanislaus where he has practiced for the past 14 years. Presently he is an attending dentist at The Long Island College Hospital, Department of Dentistry. Some of his professional affiliations include memberships in the American Dental Association, the Second District Dental Society, the Academy of General Dentistry and the International Congress of Oral Implantology at the University of Pittsburgh for a 1-year course in the surgical replacement of dental implants.

Several times each year he visits public and private schools to speak to the students about dental health issues and to encourage them to consider a career in dentistry. He also participates in several community and church sponsored health fairs each year.

Dr. Stanislaus has been married for 13 years to his wife Koren. They have two children, Travis and Jeanine. During his free time he coaches Little League Baseball and he is an assistant Cub Scout leader at St. Thomas Aquinas Church. He is an Eucharistic minister at St. Vincent Ferrer Church and he is a former lector at St. Francis of Assisi Church.

I want to commend Dr. Stanislaus for his outstanding commitment to his community, and hope that he is able to continue such valuable work for many years to come.

THE FAIRNESS IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS LICENSE TRANSFERS ACT

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 1999

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to join with my chairman on the Judiciary

Committee, Mr. HYDE, to introduce a bill that will restore stability and fairness to the process by which telecommunications licenses are transferred.

In the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law, which I chair, we recently held a hearing where it was revealed that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has no administrative rules in place to govern license transfer proceedings. This is one of the most unusual oversight hearings I have ever conducted, because we are usually examining relatively narrow questions about whether given procedures have their intended effects. In this case, we observed bureaucrats unfettered by any rule or law. It inspired to confidence on my part, nor does it, I am sure, on the part of the American people.

At risk of boring the Speaker through the sheer obviousness of my comments, let me say this: Regular administrative procedures are an essential protection for Americans. They force the government to play by rules that are known in advance. They give the public a chance to be heard, and they give the public finality. This allows Americans to organize their affairs in compliance with the law. When procedures change, all the benefits of regular order disappear, and the stink of unfairness begins wafting.

In the absence of established procedures that stink has wafted over past and pending license transfer matters before the FCC.

Our legislation requires the FCC to promulgate procedures for considering license transfers, but pushes the agency in no direction on what the procedures should be, other than open, honest, and fair.

We are also interested in whether the FCC's "public interest" standard is a legal standard, or something different. A legal standard can be learned from public sources of law. It is written clearly so that the regulated public can predict what the agency will do. And a legal standard can be reviewed in court. It's unclear that the public interest standard meets any of these tests.

Therefore, this legislation calls for the FCC to define and articulate that standard in a public rulemaking.

Let me make something clear about this legislation, though, Mr. Speaker. It is an exercise of our jurisdiction over the administrative processes that govern this land. We require no particular outcome and offer no definition to guide the FCC's wisdom. We merely say, write whatever rules you like and adhere to them. I know of no way to ensure fairness in the regulatory process with a lighter touch than that.

I call on the FCC—and I'm confident that my Committee Chairman, Mr. HYDE does as well—to promulgate clear regulations, both procedural and substantive, so that the telecommunications industry can continue to evolve at a rapid pace. If the FCC fails to deal with the telecommunications world evenhandedly and fairly, I will be prompted to join those in Congress who are calling for a top-to-bottom review of the agency's authority.

HATE CRIMES; INCOME TAX SYSTEM; AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ACTIVISM ALLIANCE

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 1999

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD statements by high school students from my home State of Vermont, who were speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people today. I am asking that you please insert these statements in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as I believe that the views of these young persons will benefit my colleagues.

HATE CRIMES

(On behalf of Ryan Creedon, Jeff Davis, Demere Kasper, and Jesse McCall)

Ryan Creedon: Hate crimes have been prevalent in America's history since its conception. A hate crime has been legally defined by Congress in the Violent Crimes and Law Enforcement Act in 1994 as a crime in which the defendant intentionally selects a victim, in the case of property crime, property that is the object of a crime because of the actual or perceived race, color, national origin, ethnicity, gender, disability or sexual orientation of any person.

The Violent Crimes and Law Enforcement Act does not serve as the nation's hate crime law. The law that does act as the nation's hate crime law does not include crimes that are gender- and sexually-orientated and motivated.

Currently, it is being debated whether or not a hate crime should be separated from what would usually be a crime. Take for example the unfortunate suffering Matthew Shepard was subject to in Wyoming. Shepard, a homosexual man, was tied to a fence and assaulted numerous times with the butt end of a pistol by two men because of his sexual orientation. Should the two men be convicted of murder alone, or should they be charged for a hate crime as well?

Jeff Davis: In this case, it is not logical to take the time, energy or money to further try the subjects. They will spend the rest of their lives in jail. However, it does make sense to further punish less severe crimes that are committed by the aggressor because of the subject's race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or gender.

In these circumstances, you can look at the case of Re Beaver St. Paul, 1992. The defendant, along with other juvenile delinquents, built a cross by taping together pieces of wood and burning it in a nearby neighbor's yard. The teenagers were punished under the St. Paul bias-motivated crime ordinance, which prohibits the placement of racial symbols on public property. The balancing test guarantees the rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness better than any other legislation to date, and sets forth a division line between what is personally offensive and what is free expression.

Demere Kasper: The balancing test weighs the importance of one's rights to express themselves against another's rights to live comfortably. This test is used in many cases. For example, the state of Kansas responds to the actions of Reverend Fred Phelps, the antihomosexual activist. Phelps, along with protesters, verbally directed antigay slander towards those of a homosexual AIDS victim. The Kansas legislature voted that Phelps' actions were immoral, and passed a ban which prohibited such acts, citing a balancing test as the reasoning.

When delivering biased beliefs, the line should be drawn when one begins to attack (inaudible). This insures that the freedom of free expression is still protected. The case of *Comver versus Smith* in 1949 proves this. When the Nazi party wanted to march through a predominantly Jewish town of Skokie, Illinois, they were denied a permit to march by civil courts. The Supreme Court cited the balancing test and overruled the decisions of the lower courts, which indicated that the denial was fair and just.

Jess McCall: Currently, in the Vermont state legislature, they are trying to pass a bill that would allow the victims of bias-motivated crimes to obtain a court order similar to abuse-prevention orders, prohibiting their attackers from further harassment.

To guarantee freedom of speech and the security of minorities, one's rights to freedom of speech must be outweighed when that speech is intended to harm an individual because of their minority status. Legislation must be passed to significantly increase punishment to those who violate this test. However, this must only be applied when trying a crime that does not already include a life sentence. While it is important to protect our nation's freedom of speech, it is more important to protect the individuals of our nation from racial, gender, ethnic, sexual-orientation, or religious-based slander.

INCOME TAX SYSTEM

(On behalf of Erin Gray and Sara Voight)

Sara Voight: The problem with the current tax system is it is complex, unfair, inhibits savings, and imposes a heavy burden on families. It cannot be replaced by a little change; it must be completely replaced.

The U.S. income tax code is a burden and a waste. The IRS publishes 480 tax forms, and 280 forms to explain the 480 tax forms. Annually, the IRS sends out 8 million pages of tax forms. If you were to lay these out end to end, they would circle the earth 28 times. This amount of paper is wasteful and would be better used for other things.

The main reason the tax code is so complex is the deductions, credits and other special preferences in the tax law. Because of all these loopholes, Americans with very similar incomes can pay vast differences in the amount of taxes. The progressive tax is complicated, but it has the right idea about giving a separate percentage to each income bracket.

Erin Gray: An example of a flat-tax solution was introduced by Congressman Dick Armey and Senator Richard Shelby. The Armey-Shelby flat tax scraps the entire tax code and replaces it with a flat-rate income tax. The flat rate would be phased in over a three-year period, with a 19-percent rate for the first two years and a 17-percent rate for later years.

Individuals and businesses would pay the same rate. This particular plan eliminates all deductions. The only income that is not taxed is a generous personal exemption that every American would receive. For a family of four, the first \$35,000 in income are not taxed. No loopholes, no checks; just a simple plan that treats everybody in America the same.

Sara Voight: Both plans have their positive sides. The flat tax has its simplicity, but it also makes it unfair for people with largely different incomes. The progressive tax, which we have now, has the right idea, but all the loopholes and deductions make it unfair. But if you were to combine both plans, and make a progressive flat tax, you will have a tax system that is simple, fair, and works for everyone.

Congressman Sanders: Thank you for dealing with an issue that receives a great deal

of attention and debate, and people have great differences of opinion on it.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ACTIVISM ALLIANCE

(On behalf of Jess Field, Claire Bove, and Tara Quesnel)

Tara Quesnel: The International Student Activism Alliance was formed almost three years ago by a group of high school students in Connecticut. Since then, it has grown to include over 1,200 members, with at least one chapter in each of the 50 states. The ISAA strives to empower students and give them a voice in issues that concern them.

Past and present ISSA issues include censorship of student publications, community curfews, and getting students with voting rights on state boards of education.

Claire Bove: The ISAA is different from any activism organizations and extra-curricular opportunities open to students. First, it is entirely student-run. The power structure consists of a national chair, the official head of the organization, and a cochair in each state. The national chair is assisted by an executive board. Members of the board include the newsletter editor, the national technology fundraising and recruiting directors, and the national coordinators. At the chapter level, there are chapter representatives. All these positions are filled by high school students.

The second thing that differentiates the ISAA from any other organization is the freedom individual chapters have. Chapter members organize around issues that are important to them. The issues are not partisan, they're student. Additionally, there is no action required of any member.

Jess Field: I believe that organizations like the ISAA are very important. As Congressman Sanders said earlier, voter turnout in our country is incredibly low. We need to find ways to allow young people to become more involved and interested in the government. Opportunities like becoming active in organizations like ISAA should not be passed up.

The experience goes well beyond the actual activism. Organizations like this teach youth self-confidence and self-respect as well as giving us a sense of what power we actually hold in a democracy like this one.

Our government needs to endorse positive civic involvement with youth. This could be accomplished with grants toward student organizations like the ISAA. Forums like this one are also very effective ways of allowing students to speak out and have their voices heard. If any members of the audience are interested in becoming more involved with the ISAA, they should find me afterward.

Congressman Sanders: Thank you very much for an excellent presentation on an important issue.

HONORING AMY NORDQUIST, LANAY M. LINNEBUR, AND SHEILA NIGHTINGALE

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize three high school junior scholars; Amy L. Nordquist of Kit Carson, CO, Lanay M. Linnebur of Byers, CO, and Sheila Nightingale of Berthoud, CO, upon receiving the Discover Card Tribute Award Scholarship. This award is very competitive. There are 10,000 applicants and 470 recipients. Each scholar is noted for

excellence in community service, leadership, special talents, unique endeavors and obstacles they have overcome. Each individual was rewarded for expertise in various fields. Ms. Lanay received \$2,500 award in Trade and Technical Studies, Ms. Nightingale received a \$1,750 award in Arts and Humanities, and Ms. Nordquist received a \$1,750 award in Trade and Technical Studies. I commend these students for their phenomenal work.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIE MAE RIVERS

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 1999

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a woman whose leadership and caring nature have influenced so many, Ms. Willie Mae Rivers.

Willie Mae Rivers was born in Charleston, SC. She aligned herself with Calvary Church of God in Christ in 1946, where she has served over the past 50 years. Ms. Rivers has also served as district missionary and assistant state supervisor for the state of South Carolina. Ms. Rivers has also held various positions on Screening and Program committees, District Missionaries, and instructor of the State Supervisor's class.

Ms. Rivers is the mother of 12 children. She currently maintains a satellite office in addition to the Church of God in Christ headquarters in Memphis, TN.

Ms. Willie Mae Rivers is a leader and giving individual who deserves the respect and admiration of everyone.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIRNESS IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS LICENSE TRANSFERS ACT

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 1999

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to join with Chairman GEKAS of the Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law and Congressman GOODLATTE to introduce the "Fairness in Telecommunications License Transfers Act."

As chairman of the Judiciary Committee, the committee with jurisdiction over antitrust and administrative procedure matters, I have long been concerned about the treatment of mergers in the telecommunications industry. During the consideration of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Ranking Member JOHN CONYERS and I were instrumental in updating the law to make sure that telecommunications mergers received a full antitrust review under the normal Hart-Scott-Rodino process in addition to the broader public interest review of license transfers by the Federal Communications Commission.

Since that time, the Committee on the Judiciary has continued to study this matter. On June 24, 1998, we held an oversight hearing on "The Effects of Consolidation on the State of Competition in the Telecommunications Industry." Chairman William Kennard of the FCC was invited to appear at that hearing, but